

REMARKS

Claims 17-20 remain in the application. All of the other claims, 1-16 have been canceled without prejudice.

In the Official Action, in column 1, the Primary Examiner made reference to a handwritten phrase that has been added to claim 17 and inquired as to whether the phrase was to be considered by the Examiner to be part of the claim. Applicant confirms that the phrase should be part of claim 17. In the Official Action, original claims 17-20 were rejected under double patenting of the "same invention" type in view of applicant's parent Patent No. 6,667,086, from which the subject application is a continuation. In addition, the Primary Examiner indicated that claims 17-20 contained allowable subject matter.

In response to the double patenting rejection, applicant has amended claims 17-20 to specifically set forth that the thermoplastic resin film of the support structure comprises "a fluoropolymer resin", as contrasted to the polytetrafluoroethylene resin set forth in claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,667,086. Support for this change may be found on page 6, lines 6-26 of the specification as originally filed, and to this end, no new matter has been added. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 17-20 are distinguishable from the claims of applicant's U.S. Patent No. 6,667,086, and therefore, allowance of claims 17-20 as amended is respectfully solicited. If the Primary Examiner has any questions relative to the above, he is respectfully requested to telephone applicant's attorney at the number below.



Accompanying this Amendment is a copy of a Revocation of Power of Attorney and New Power of Attorney and Change of Correspondence Address for filing in the United States Patent and Trademark Office and which appoints the below named attorney to represent the applicants in proceedings before the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert S.M. Gorman".

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